

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A picture composing apparatus designed to combine a plurality of images taken by a plurality of image pickup devices. In the apparatus, a first projecting unit projects the plurality of images taken by the image pickup devices onto a projection section in accordance with an image pickup situation of the image pickup devices to generate a plurality of first projected images, and a second projecting unit projects the plurality of first projected images to a three-dimensional projection model to generate a second projected image. Also included in the apparatus are a virtual image pickup device for virtually picking up the second projected image and an image pickup situation determining unit for determining an image pickup situation of the virtual image pickup device, whereby the second projected image is picked up by the virtual image pickup device in the image pickup situation determined by the pickup situation determining unit to combine the plurality of images taken by the plurality of image pickup devices, thus producing a high-quality composite picture. This apparatus can offer a natural composite picture in which joints among the images taken by the image pickup devices do not stand out. In addition, when mounted on a motor vehicle, this apparatus allows a

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driver to easily seize the surrounding situations and the positional relationship of the motor vehicle with respect to other objects.

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